

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

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Marfa Sector Seizes Over 5,000 Pounds Of Marijuana

Sanderson, Sierra Blanca Agents Kept Busy With Drug Busts

MARFA, Texas – The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Marfa Border Patrol Sector seized over 5,000 pounds of marijuana in six different seizures since last Thursday. Agents assigned to the Sierra Blanca Station made four of the six seizures.

Thursday, April 10, agents stopped two pickups driving toward Sierra Blanca from the Rio Grande River. Agents discovered 418 pounds of marijuana hidden in the gas tank and tires of one of the pickups. The marijuana had an estimated value of \$334,800. The men, vehicles and marijuana were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Friday, April 11, agents stopped a van driven by a United States Citizen that contained 2,722 pounds of marijuana in 43 boxes. The marijuana had an estimated value of \$2,178,000. The driver, contraband and vehicle were turned over to the DEA.

Also Friday, agents discovered 251 pounds of marijuana hidden in the engine compartment of a bus. The marijuana had an estimated value of \$200,000. The contraband and driver were turned over to the DEA.

Sunday, April 13, agents found 163 pounds of marijuana in a 1993 Pontiac Grand Prix being driven by an illegal alien from Mexico. The marijuana had an estimated value of \$130,400. The driver, vehicle and contraband were turned over to the DEA.

Also Sunday, agents assigned to the Sanderson Station discovered footprints of several people leading away from the Rio Grande River about 38 miles southwest of Sanderson, Texas. Agents followed the footprints and arrested 12 people carrying homemade backpacks filled with 441 pounds of marijuana. The backpacks were made of sugar sacks painted black with homemade shoulder straps. The marijuana had an estimated value of \$353,200. The suspects were all citizens and nationals of Mexico illegally in the United States. Three were juveniles. The Mexican Consulate was notified and the three juveniles were returned to Mexico. The other nine men and the marijuana were turned over to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Monday, April 14, agents observed two vehicles driving away from the Rio Grande River. Agents stopped one vehicle, but the other refused to stop. A Texas Parks and Wildlife Service Officer and Border Patrol Agents followed the vehicle, a 1990 S-10 Chevrolet Blazer, which eventually stopped about 10 miles north of Dryden. It contained 502 pounds of marijuana. The driver of the second vehicle led agents to an area ranch where another 501 pounds were located. The marijuana was wrapped in cellophane packages and filled into primitive backpacks made of sugar sacks with straps. The vehicles, drivers and the marijuana, with an estimated value of over \$803,000, were turned over to the DEA.

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